

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1 and 3-6 are pending in this application, of which claim 1 is independent. In the Office Action dated April 27, 2005, claims 1 and 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3-6. No new subject matter has been added and support for the amendments may be found, for example, between page 8, line 13 and page 9, line 2. Additional support for the amendments may also be found in connection with Figs. 1 and 2. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

In the Office Action of April 27, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

In response to the Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3-6 and submit that the amended claims 1 and 3-6 are definite. More specifically, Applicants submit that a slider, as defined in amended claim 1, comprises a bottom plate; side walls that are erected on both sides of the bottom plate; a flange provided by bending a top end of each side wall inwardly; and a down-grade slope, which is continuously inclined downward from a shoulder opening side of the flange to the bottom plate, is provided on the flange and the side wall. The specification provides an example

supporting such claim language. For example, the slider in Figs. 1, 2, and 4 has a bottom plate 13; side walls 14 that are erected on both sides of the bottom plate 13; a flange 15 provided by bending the top end of each side wall 14 inwardly; and a down-grade slope 22 provided on a side of the flange and on the side wall. This slope, as clearly illustrated in Figs. 1, 2, and 4 is continuously inclined downward from a shoulder opening side of the flange to the bottom plate. As such, amended claim 1 is definite and fully supported by the present specification. Further features of the slider as defined in amended claim 1 are recited in amended dependent claims 3-6 and are also definite.

With regard to claim 1, the Examiner contended that the limitation stating that the down-grade slope "is inclined from a leading end of a shoulder opening side of the flange toward a shoulder opening" is indefinite. Office Action, page 2. Applicants submit that this limitation has been amended to clearly specify that the down-grade slope is continuously inclined downward from a shoulder opening side of the flange to the bottom plate. By way of example, such a down-grade slope is set forth as slope 22 that is provided on part of the flange 15 and part of side wall 14 in Fig. 1. Thus, Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is now definite.

The Examiner also asserted, with regard to claim 5, that the limitation stating that "the down-grade slope disposed between the flange and the side wall is formed such that a longitudinal section shape of the side wall is linear" is indefinite. The Examiner specifically pointed out that the down-grade slope is not disposed between the flange and the side wall, but between the flange and the bottom plate. Office Action, page 3. In response to the Examiner's assertions, Applicants have amended claim 5 and a

corresponding limitation in claim 1 to clearly recite that the down-grade slope 22 is “provided on the flange and the side wall,” and is “continuously inclined downward from a shoulder opening side of the flange to the bottom plate.” Applicants additionally submit that the “longitudinal sectional shape of the side wall” refers to a side profile of the down-grade slope as it appears on the side wall. For example, the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2 shows this side profile or longitudinal sectional shape of the down-grade slope as being linear. Furthermore, regarding the Examiner’s assertion regarding claim 6, the specification teaches that such a shape of slope 22 may be curved as well. (See specification, page 16, lines 14-19.)

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that amended claims 1 and 3-6 are now definite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action of April 27, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Applicants’ admitted prior art of Fig. 14. The Examiner’s rejections are respectfully traversed.

With regard to claim 1, the Examiner contended that Fig. 14 shows every claimed feature because it shows side walls 114 erected on both sides of a bottom plate 113, flanges 115 formed on the side wall, and a down grade slope that is inclined from a leading end of a shoulder 151 toward an opening on the right end of the slider. The Examiner also contended that the curve of the leading ends of both shoulders 151 toward the center of the slider, as shown in Fig. 14, may be considered a down grade slope as defined in claim 1. The Examiner further contended that unless the incline and

downward directions are defined relative to the slider, down and up directions can be defined relative to some distant reference point. Office Action, page 3.

Applicants submit that amended claim 1, as described above, recites that the down-grade slope is provided on the flange and the side wall. Claim 1 further requires the slope to be continuously inclined downward from a shoulder opening side of the flange to the bottom plate. Thus, amended claim 1 clearly defines the incline and downward directions relative to the slider. Fig. 14, as pointed out by the Examiner, merely shows an incline from a shoulder 151 toward an opening on the right end of the slide. It, therefore, at least fails to show or suggest a down-grade slope that is continuously inclined downward from a shoulder opening side of the flange to the bottom plate, as required by amended claim 1. Fig. 14 additionally fails to show or suggest providing the down-grade slope on the flange and the side wall at a shoulder opening side as required by amended claim 1.

Accordingly, at least because Fig. 14 does not show or suggest each and every feature of Applicants' amended claim 1, amended claim 1 is novel and patentable over Fig. 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 3-6 depend from amended claim 1 and are, therefore, also novel and patentable over Fig. 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for at least the same reasons that amended claim 1 is patentable over Fig. 14.

Conclusion

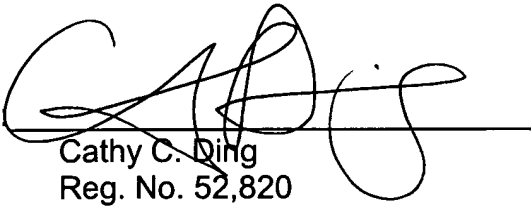
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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